available. The video service is targeted to start by March, 2006.

(b)The Tri Band Service works on existing landline connection and no separate line is required. There are various plans for high speed internet for different needs of subscribers with monthly usage charges starting from Rs. 199/-. The video service is likely to be available starting at approximately Rs. 300/- per month.

(c)Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Subsidy for USO fund

2439. SHRI RAASHID ALVI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India would bring down subsidy for universal services obligation fund from Rs. 21,000 crore to Rs. 6500 crore over next 5 years;

(b)if so, by what time a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken;

(c)whether telecom regulator has estimated that if the present regime of disbursing USO fund is continued, then Government will have to fork out Rs. 21000 crore by 2010 to achieve targets of reaching phones to villages; and

(d)if so, by when this change of permanent mobile phones in rural areas will be decided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b)Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c)Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has estimated that, if the present Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) support approach is continued, about Rs. 30,000 crore would be required to achieve the rural tele-density target of 4% by 2010.

(d) No such scheme for permanent mobile phones in rural areas has been envisaged.